Philadelphia 6 August 1782. —
Received 27th September.
Answered Octo 10.

Dear Ridley.

I received by the Non Such a Copy of your Letter from Paris of the twentieth of April. Accept my sincere Thanks for it. I repeat for Form's Sake that the Bill in favor of Mr Pringle was paid, as I suppose he has advised you. It is a long time since I have heard from Carmichael. Colo Livingston was taken and his Letters previously destroyed. Major Franks brought none to me from him. I am not surprized at that as he was to my Knowledge very much occupied about that Time.

I am well convinced of two Things One that a Peace will not easily be made, and another that it is not much for the Interest of America that it should be made at Present. Whoever will take a Retrospective View of our Affairs, will find amid all their Changes (and God knows they have been sufficiently variable) that we have made a silent but rapid and constant Progress towards Strength and Greatness. Our Position, our Numbers, our Resources, and our probable Increase are all important. Our Knowledge is not unimportant Highly Commercial, being as it were the first born Children of extended Commerce in modern Times. We must be maritime. Freedom was secured by the several Constitutions; Freedom in the extreme. Nothing remained but Vigor, Organization & Promptitude to render this a considerable Empire. These can only be acquired by a Continuance of the War, which will convince People of the Necessity of Obedience to common Counsels for general Purposes. War is indeed a rude, rough Nurse to infant States, and the Consequence of being committed to her Care is that they either die Young, or grow up Vigorous. We have at least

lived

lived thro' the Cradle, and are familiarized to her Looks of Horror. The Power of Congreſs is like a young Tree which when first planted is much endangered but when the Roots once begin to shoot it acquires Strength "even "in the Visitation of the Winds which take the ruffian Mountain Billows by the "Top". A Tree so visited seldom overgrows. Such a Tree becomes if not large, at least solid and tho not showy is surely strong. Metaphors are not Reasons neither are Aſsertions Proofs unleſs indeed they be taken as the Evidences of Opinion. The Confederation has not given to Congreſs sufficient Authority. This becomes daily sensible and that Sense will remedy the Evil. But if the War cease the Conviction of our Weakneſs will also cease until shewn by another War, and then perhaps it may be too late. — —

I have long since given to Carmichael my Sentiments on a War between the Ruſsians, Imperialists, and Turks. The Part which the King of Pruſsia would take was pointed out by his Wisdome and his Situation. I rather doubt whether such a War will take Place just now. We have no remarkable Events here, other than what the Gazettes will announce. Savannah evacuated certainly. Charlestown probably. Sir Guy Carleton very polite. The several Aſsemblies paſsing hightoned Resolutions. All these things however are of little Consequence, but the Solidity which our Governments are daily acquiring is of great Consequence. There are always some small Matters which influence much and are frequently overlooked. During the Ferment of the Revolution like as in other Ferments the Dregs were uppermost. The Liquor is daily refining. In other Words Men of Sense and Property are getting into the Places which such Men ought to fill. The People are beginning to be convinced that those Men are alone fit to govern, and in a very little Time, the Rulers of America will be well obeyed if they pursue the Paths of Honesty which I hope they will do. Adieu

believe me truly

Your Friend

Gouv Morris

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